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TRIO OF MEDAL OF HONOR HEROES PAYS VISIT TO SOLDIERS OF V CORPS' 18TH MILITARY POLICE BRIGADE

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MANNHEIM, Germany – Three Medal of Honor recipients paid a visit to the Soldiers of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company of V Corps' 18th Military Police Brigade at Coleman Barracks here June 15 at Coleman Barracks here.



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Medal of Honor recipients (from left) Sammy L. Davis, Ronald E. Rosser and Rodolfo P. Hernandez answer questions from Soldiers of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company of V Corps' 18th Military Police Brigade at Coleman Barracks in Mannheim, Germany, during a visit there June 15.

Veterans (Sgt.) Sammy L. Davis, (Cpl.) Ronald E. Rosser and (Cpl.) Rodolfo P.

Hernandez made the visit as part of an organized tour to support troops during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The three also visited wounded Soldiers at

Landstuhl (Germany) Regional Medical Center and troops at several other

locations; took part in unit ceremonial events, and celebrated the Army's 229th birthday during their visit.

18th MP Brigade Commander Col. Teddy R. Spain introduced the guests and showed them a brief video detailing what the soldiers of the 18th did during their deployment

to Iraq last year and then opened a question-and-answer session with the decorated heroes.



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Col. Teddy R. Spain, commander of V Corps' 18th Military Police Brigade, talks with Medal of Honor recipient Rodolfo P. Hernandez after presenting him with a brigade coin during a visit to the brigade headquarters at Coleman Barracks in Mannheim, Germany June 15.

Davis, a veteran of the Vietnam conflict, earned his medal in November 1967 while serving as a cannoneer with the 9th Infantry Division.

While under heavy enemy mortar attack, Davis provided covering fire for his gun crew without regard to his own life. Despite suffering from painful wounds he rescued two casualties, pulling them across a river to safety while continuing to provide cover fire.

"What's in your heart and in your mind is what you do," said Davis of the experience.

Davis' first duty as a Medal of Honor recipient was to attend President Nixon's inauguration.

Rosser, the second-youngest recipient of the Medal of Honor during the Korean War, served with the 2nd Infantry Division.

On January 12, 1952, armed only with a carbine and a grenade, he single-handedly killed at least 13 enemy soldiers while under fierce automatic weapons, small arms, artillery and mortar fire. Although wounded and out of ammunition, Rosser made several trips across open terrain under enemy fire to help his injured comrades.

Just 18 inches away from the enemy, Rosser realized the extreme and immediate danger he faced but told himself, "I've come too far to give up," he said.

Hernandez, serving with the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team, received serious injuries during an enemy attack involving heavy artillery, mortar and machine gun fire on May 31, 1951 near Wontong-ni, Korea. When his comrades out of ammunition, Hernandez rushed the enemy carrying an inoperative rifle and killed six of the enemy with his bayonet before falling unconscious from grenade, bayonet and bullet wounds.

Hernandez's wife said he was mistakenly pronounced dead and zipped into a body bag until someone noticed a slight movement in his hand. He was paralyzed on the right side of his body and endured years of therapy.

"He is a walking miracle," she added.

"We appreciate what you're doing," Davis told the Soldiers of the 18th before departing. "You're doing one hell of a job in a difficult situation."

